(c)	R.O.	L.P.G. (on all India Basis)
HPC . . .	244	163
BPC . . .	212	135
IOC . . .	260	289
IBP . .	90	..
Total : . .	806	587

As a number of steps precede the actual allotment of a distributorship/dealership, it is not possible to indicate the exact time by which the above dealerships/distributorships will be allotted.

Telecommunication services in Assam

1423. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the telecommunication services in Assam are unsatisfactory; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to improve the telecommunication net work in Assam and particularly in Guwahati?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) Telecommunication services in Assam are generally satisfactory. However, to further improve the services, the following action is being taken:

(i) Installation of electronic exchange at Guwahati with remote units at Dispur, Jhalukbari and Noonmati.

(ii) Replacement of manual exchanges at Karimganj, Hailakande and North Lakhimpur by electronic ones.

(iii) Expansion of Guwahati telephone exchange.

(iv) Expansion of Dibrugarh exchange.

In addition to above, the following actions are being taken under Mission Better Communications to further improve the present service:

(i) Replacement of old unserviceable telephone instruments.

(ii) Replacement of fault-prone cables.

(iii) Replacement of heavy overhead alignment by underground cables

Requirement of energy in rural and tribal areas

1424. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the per capita energy requirement in rural and tribal areas of the country;

(b) whether this requirement is high or low as compared to other developing countries in the commonwealth; and

(c) if low, what steps have besen taken by Government to increase the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) The Report of the